Fund for latent talents in schools

†2208. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government is considering to set up a fund to bring forward the latent talents in schools/colleges from which meritorious students may get assistance;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this fund has actually been set up;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, by when this fund is proposed to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) and (b) The Government of India has launched National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme to award one lakh scholarships every year to meritorious students, whose parental income is not more than Rs. 1,50,000 per annum. The selected students will be given scholarships for study in classes IX to XII. Interest from a corpus of Rs. 3000 crore to be built up over 4 years, is envisaged to fund the scheme. The first installment of Rs. 750 crore is proposed to be credited to the corpus in 2008-09.

(c) to (e) No corpus could be set up due to non-availability of funds. The Ministry of Finance has now provided funds to set up corpus under the Scheme in the first supplementary grants of the Ministry of Human Resource Development but the funds have not yet been transferred. The corpus fund will be set up immediately on availability of funds.

Setting up of Indian Institutes of Information Technology

2209. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up Indian Institutes of Information Technology at different places in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) A proposal to set up new Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs) under Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode is under consideration of the Government. The details in this regard are being worked out.

Reaction of teachers on Sixth Central Pay Commission

†2210. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.